

# Air Wing Sailor Blue Angel Bound

By MCSN JAMES EVANS  
Penny Press staff

A Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 master chief petty officer has been selected as a member of the Blue Angels Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron.

Master Chief Aircraft Maintenceman (AW) Jerry Welsh, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2’s maintenance master chief will depart July 25 to represent the Navy’s premier flight demonstration team.

Welsh, who has served in the Navy for more than 25 years, was selected from a list of highly qualified applicants to take over as the Blue Angels’ Maintenance Master Chief.

At the team’s home base at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Welsh will be responsible for ensuring that the team’s famous blue and yellow F/A-18s are in perfect flying condition before every show. This is not a small responsibility considering that the team has never cancelled an air show due to maintenance-related issues.

“The most important part of my job will be to ensure that we give the pilots the safest plane possible,” said Welsh. “But equally important is keeping people motivated.”

According the Blue Angels’ website, the Blue Angels Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, which first performed in 1946, is



Photo by MCSN James Evans

**AFCM(AW) Jerry Welsh, VFA 2’s maintenance master chief, poses in front of an F/A-18F Super Hornet. Welsh was selected to be the Blue Angel’s maintenance master chief.**

made up of seven aircraft flown by the Navy and Marine Corp’s top pilots, as well as a support team consisting of an events coordinator, maintenance officer, flight surgeon, administrative officer, public affairs officer, supply officer, and about 110 enlisted Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

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# Abe Hosts 3,000 Visitors During Deployment

By MCSN MICHAEL McNABB  
Penny Press staff

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) hosted more than 3,000 Distinguished Visitors (DVs), public visitors, and members of the media during the ship’s Western Pacific deployment in 2006.

Throughout the deployment Abe Sailors showed their hospitality through tours, ship visitations, and the overnight program for DVs, which is designed to give guests

a taste of Navy life underway.

Lincoln showed visitors how Sailors from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9 join with ship’s company to form a cohesive unit.



During the deployment, Abe hosted guests from the nations of Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Australia.

“This was a great opportunity for this first-hand view of the professionalism

of the crew of Lincoln,” said Brig. Gen. Vikra Goswami of India’s Joint Operations and Planning office during his visit onboard Abe.

Other visitors brought on board included 400 DVs and media from Hong Kong; 380 DVs and media from Thailand; 600 DVs and visitors from Singapore; 600 DVs and visitors from Japan; 16 DVs from Indonesia; 16 DVs from Brunei and 1,000

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# News

## Spotlight Sailors



### MCSN James R. Evans

Media/GM

**Hometown:**

**NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Reported on board:**

Dec. 14, 2005

**Advice to new Sailors:**

*"Find something you like doing, then try to be the best at it."*

**Reason he joined the Navy:**

*"To be a photographer."*

**Something MCSN Evans is looking forward to:**

*"Going home on leave."*



### AA Sean Acord

VFA 2/ Line Division

**Hometown:**

**NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Reported on board:**

Dec. 3, 2005

**Hobbies:**

*"Playing basketball, football and running."*

**Reason he joined the Navy:**

*"To get a college education and the opportunity to see the world."*

**The most memorable event in AA Acord's career:**

*"Visiting the atomic bomb memorial in Nagasaki, Japan."*



**PSNS radiography and shipyard safety training is showing on site TV from July 6-22. This training is required for all hands. Check Ch. 5 for show times.**



### July 14, 1943

TBF Avenger and F4F Wildcat aircraft of Composite Squadron (VC) 29 from the auxiliary aircraft carrier Santee (ACV 29) send the German submarine U-160 to the bottom south of the Azores Islands.

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Executive Officer.....	Capt. (Sel) T. E. Nosenzo
Public Affairs Officer.....	Lt. Cmdr. John Filostrat
Assistant PAO.....	Ens. Brett Dawson
Media Dept. LCPO.....	MCCS(SW/AW) Jon Annis
Editor.....	MC2(SW) Michael Hart
Staff.....	MCC(SW/AW) Christopher King
	MC1(SW) Joaquin Juatai
	MC2(SW) Michael Cook
	MC3(AW) M. Jeremie Yoder
	MC3 Jordon Beesley
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	MCSN James Evans
	MCSN Timothy Roache
	MCSN Michael McNabb



## Local News

# HSL 47 Sailors Efforts Recognized

FROM LT. SAM SCRUGGS  
*Special to Penny Press*

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a category four storm, made landfall in the Gulf Coast region of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana and resulted in the greatest natural disaster in recent United States history.

This storm of unprecedented proportion devastated Biloxi, Gulfport, and New Orleans.

In New Orleans alone, the huge storm surge coupled with extremely heavy rains caused three breaches in the levee system and flooded more than 80 percent of the city. The catastrophe resulted in over 950 deaths, tens of thousands stranded, and hundreds of thousands homeless or displaced.

These cities were in dire need of aide and at great peril of famine, disease and death.

On Sept. 1, 2005, with only 12 hours notice, Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 47 flew two aircraft and 95 personnel to NAS Pensacola, Fla. to lead the first ever Atlantic/Pacific HSMWING composite super squadron in support of Joint Task Force KATRINA.

Using Operation Unified Assistance experience, HSL 47 personnel capably assumed the leadership role and directed the super squadron's efforts in a highly dynamic and demanding environment.

Under command of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3, and on short notice, HSL 47 embarked USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) to conduct concurrent shore-and sea-based rescue operations.

In only nine days of operations, the 16 aircraft composite squadron completed 94 sorties, flew 771.5 mishap-free flight hours, rescued 1,173 people, and delivered over 76,000 pounds of relief supplies.

Simultaneous to HSL 47's participation in disaster relief efforts on the Gulf Coast, the squadron's remaining aircraft, aircrew and maintenance personnel supported the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group Sustainment Training, embarking one two-plane combat element aboard USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53) and flying numerous deck landing qualifications, torpedo exercises, and unit level training with remaining homeguard assets.

Eventually, Naval Air Station Pensacola embarked squadron personnel and aircraft based and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) embarked squadron personnel and aircraft returned to NAS North Island, and in only 48-hours joined their homeguard complement in embarking the remaining ABRAHAM LINCOLN Carrier Strike Group ships for Sustainment Training.

Only through the tremendous professionalism and dedication of the "SABERHAWKS" were these efforts were possible.

For their extreme efforts, the Saberhawks received their second Humanitarian Service Medal.

## Big Bucks Bingo is around the corner!!

Two people from the ship could win an all-expense-paid trip to the NASCAR Ford 400 in Homestead, Fla.

Winners will stay for three nights, get \$500 dollars spending money and pit/garage passes. Winners will be announced during the pre-blackout drawing during the next Bingo on July 25.



Tickets on sale now!!

*MAUR*

## Local News

# Lincoln Hosts Australian Parliament Members

By MC2(SW) MICHAEL HART

*Penny Press staff*

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) hosted six members of the Australian Parliament July 9 as a part of biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises in the Hawaiian operating area.

The Distinguished Visitors (DV's) saw various parts of the ship including medical spaces, the mess decks and the flight deck.

"I've always had a desire to visit a Nimitz-class carrier," said Kim Wilkie, Parliament member for Swan, Western Australia. "These visits are important to enhance the relationship between the U.S. and Australia. Since we're both involved in RIMPAC, it gives us an opportunity to work with more than our allies; it gives us the opportunity to work with our friends."

The visitors came aboard as a part the Australian Defense Force Parliament Program, which allows members of Australia's Parliament to get a better understanding of how the U.S. Navy operates.

"The program is designed to get the members a better understanding of what life at sea and shore is like," said Australian Navy Lt. Jillian Browlie. "It's a great opportunity to learn and appreciate how tough military life really is. They get to interact on a normal basis with servicemembers of all ranks."

Browlie said the visit to Abe was to gain a better understanding of how an aircraft carrier fits into an international exercise.

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) is currently participating



Photo By MCSN Ronald Dallatore

**The Honorable Judith A. Adams, Senator for Western Australia, mans the helm of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) during a Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. RIMPAC includes ships and personnel from the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom.**

in the month-long RIMPAC exercise. RIMPAC includes ships and personnel from the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Peru, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. This exercise trains U.S. and allied forces to be interoperable and ready for a wide range of potential combined operations and missions.

## GUEST

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visitors from Hawaii.

Lincoln hosted these guests during exercises throughout the deployment, including 21 DVs and media during the JMSDF Undersea Warfare Exercise (USWEX), 48 DVs and media during Foal Eagle, 11 DVs during Valiant Shield and 100 DVs during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC).

"The face-to-face interaction helps with the communication barrier," said Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Mills, from DESRON 9.

Lincoln is currently participating in RIMPAC 2006. RIMPAC includes ships and personnel from the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Peru, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. This exercise trains U.S. allied forces to be interoperable and ready for a wide range of potential combined operations and missions.

## Feeling Blue

"Avast there, shipmates!" Did you know that the expression "Feeling blue" has nautical origins? Feeling blue or having a fit of the blues, means one feels melancholy, rotten, sad, out-of-sorts or just plain lousy. Its use came ashore from the sea. It was a custom in the 19th Century among deep water Sailors that when the Captain or one of the Senior Officers as lost or died on the voyage the ship would hoist and fly multiple blue pennants or a single blue pennant while at sea. Or they would paint a blue stripe along the water line when they came to anchor. This was a sign of mourning, loss and respect for the departed Sailor and a signal to all ships within sight of what had occurred.

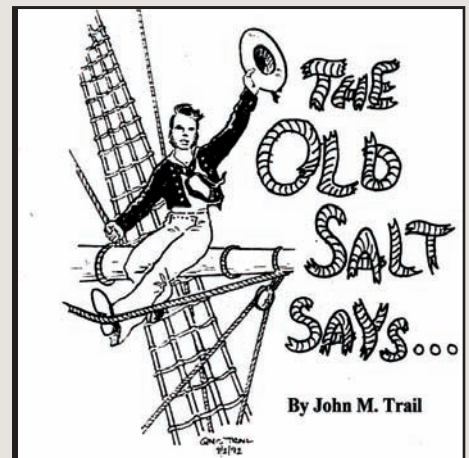






Photo By MCM James Evans



Photo By MCM James Evans



Photo By MCM James Evans



Photo By MCM Ronald Dallatore

# Week At A Glance



## Local News

# Sailors Serve in Iraq

## Abe Sailor Helps Deployed Troops With Patrols

BY MC1(SW) JOAQUIN JUATAI  
Penny Press staff

When USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) got underway for its 2006 Western Pacific deployment Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW/AW) Brian Cissell was not aboard.

Instead, Cissell volunteered as an Individual Augmentee (IA) and deployed to Iraq for six months.

According to Cissell, the experience has been tough, but rewarding.

"I requested to be assigned to a combat unit on the front lines because I wanted to be where the action was," Cissell said. "I was sent to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Mahmudiyah to assess guard towers that were being built on the base. At first it was a little rough fitting in because of the Army/Navy thing, but after the first month I was just one of the troops.

"I get a lot of respect from these guys because I am right beside them when the [stuff] goes down and I go outside the wire with them on a daily basis. I have become a mentor to quite a few Soldiers."

Cissell is assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Operations Officer/Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge for the 2nd Battalion 101st Brigade Combat Team Resident office in Mahmudiyah. However, FOB Mahmudiyah is under the control of the 1st Battalion, 101st, so Cissell has been tasked to work with three teams assigned to 1st Battalion.

Cissell said he runs missions as the NCOIC/Team Leader of the 1/502nd Infantry, 413th Civil Affairs, and 303rd PSYOPS team,

consisting of 18 members (one Army Capt. and 17 E-6 and below).

His area of responsibility is Yousifiya, Mahmudiyah, Al Rasheed, & Lutifiyah. This area is known as the "Triangle Of Death" because Yousifiyah, Lutifiyah, & Mahmudiyah form the corners of a triangle that is one of the deadliest

areas in Iraq.

Cissell's duties consist of coordinating operations in all the surrounding areas in regard to rebuilding efforts (hospitals, police stations, schools, government buildings, electricity, sewage, & water). He and his teams monitor progress, ensure security, check for fraud or scandal, and arrange arrests and raids if necessary.

"I also investigate acts of terrorism against projects," he said in an e-mail exchange.

According to Cissell, keeping in constant touch with local workers, contractors and officials while overseeing the various building projects going on in his Area of Responsibility (AOR) is a constant challenge.

"I work with the locals in all four areas on a daily basis," Cissell said. "All of the projects are designed to hire people from within the local population to help with the economy and strengthen the Iraqi government.

"I also coordinate with the city mayor and all of the local councils. Between the mayor and the council I can identify which projects to nominate (for construction) and also gather intelligence on the terrorist activities in the area and around my projects."

During Cissell's time as NCOIC, he has overseen the completion of a health clinic and government council building in Yousifiya, several water treatment plants, electrical power distribution infrastructure, several schools and even sewage treatment plants. His involvement includes meeting with local sheiks (tribal leaders) and governments, as well as with the Iraqi contractors and workers who do the actual building projects.

"I have enjoyed the work," he said. "I get a lot of rewards by watching the peoples' reactions when we finish, especially in regard to schools and medical clinics."

However, all has not been positive in his experience, Cissell said.

"I have been involved with some pretty rough experiences out here. I have lost seven soldiers that I either worked closely with or I knew from the FOB," he said. "While checking one of my contractor's residence we found him and his family murdered.

"I have had numerous workers and contractors kidnapped and/or killed, but they continue to come back to work," Cissell added.

He said that often during patrols to work sites, his teams discover personnel and weapons that do not belong there.

"Some run and we chase. Contractors and workers will provide info on people threatening harm or



Courtesy of BMC (SW/AW) Brian Cissell  
BMC(SW/AW) Brian Cissell watches over his troops while manning a Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). He is stationed in Iraq as an Individual Augmentee.

# Local News

## IRAQ

*Continued from page 6*

stopping work and we will seek them out to talk to them or pass it along to Brigade for further action," Cissell said. "Our convoy has hit several IEDs, taken sniper fire, and engaged with the enemy on few occasions."

"Attacks are relentless and successful. I have seen my fair share and have barely come out of a few," Cissell said.

According to Cissell, in the midst of all the action, there are Iraqi children. One of his favorite activities is talking with the children and giving them gifts, he said.

"We carry Beanie Babies and sacks of candy in the trunk, so we can do our best to make life a little better for them (the children)," Cissell said. "It makes you feel good to do things like that in this kind of environment, so we try to do this at least once a day."

Cissell explained that occasionally, his team has to "switch gears" from humanitarianism to defense in the blink of an eye.

"You will be handing candy or a Beanie Baby to a child and a sniper takes a pot shot at you," he said. "You go from nice guy to kill mode in a blink of an eye or you chase a guy, he gets away, and the children come back."

"Sometimes it is hard to change gears, but you have to if you are going to make some kind of difference and come back in one piece."

In all, Cissell said his experiences in Iraq have been positive.

"I think (the Individual Augmentee Program) is a great idea," Cissell said. "It is important for all of us as service members to fight terrorism."

"Right now the fight is here (Iraq) and the Army needs our help, especially in leadership."

Cissell stressed that his personal and professional growth

have made the difficulties of life in a combat zone worth the time and danger involved.

"I think anyone that steps into a combat environment walks a way a different person

and walks away with a different respect towards life and what is at stake," he said.

Cissell said that, knowing what he knows now, he would volunteer to serve as an IA all over again.

"It was important to me to know what life was like as a Soldier compared to mine as a Sailor. It was important to know what combat was like and the emotions that go with it. These things have taught me about life, my role as a leader, and the importance of camaraderie," he said.

"For six months I have been a Soldier, a Sailor, a Chief, a mentor, and a friend. In my mind I have made a difference to the people of Iraq and to the Soldiers with whom I served," he said. "I could not have achieved this anywhere but here."

To find out how you can volunteer for the Navy's Individual Augmentee Program, talk with your career counselor.



*Courtesy of BMC (SW/AW) Brian Cissell*  
**BMC(SW/AW) Brian Cissell poses with several Iraqi children. Cissell said that his team carries candy and Beanie Babies in their HUMVEEs to give to the children who are "everywhere" when out on patrol.**

## ANGELS *Continued from page 1*

Every individual on the team is extensively screened to ensure that they are the best the Navy has to offer before being selected as a Blue Angel.

"First you go to what's called a 'rush interview' where you show the team that you're interested," said Welsh. "Then you submit a package for review and if you're a finalist, you go and talk to all the 'troops' - and it's interesting because all the people who are going to be working for you decide whether or not you make it."

According to Welsh, the last step in the process is a final board before the Blue Angels' commanding officer and other

senior members of the squadron.

In the end, Welsh was selected over three other finalists.

Enlisted personnel who are selected for the Blue Angels serve a three year tour with the team. Welsh will spend the last half of this summer's air show season under the wing of the current maintenance master chief before taking over for the next three seasons.

At his new command, Welsh said he can look forward to a schedule that is every bit as demanding as deployments aboard Lincoln.

The Blue Angels spend only a few short months every winter in Pensacola and are

"on the road" for the rest of the year.

"You're stationed there all winter, and then every weekend in the summer you're gone," said Welsh. "I expect to spend about 70 percent of the summer months out on the road with the team."

Despite the hectic schedule, Welsh looks forward to the challenge. He also has a few tips for Sailors who aspire to be Blue Angels.

"Work hard, be yourself, and have the drive to be able to do what you do day in and day out," he said. "It's a big commitment."

# Local News



## Shipmates

*The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew*



Photo By MCSN Ronald Dallatore

A C-2A Greyhound assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 is signaled onto one of four steam-powered catapults on the flight deck aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

### USS Abraham Lincoln Safety Department's

## Safety Sailor of the Week

While painting an elevator door, AOAA Mathew Schofield ensured his safety by using the proper PPE (goggles, nitrile gloves, respirator).

Also due to using a paint roller, he had a cold work chit posted.



PHOTO BY SK1(SW/AW/SS) RICHARD WARD

### Aviation Ordnanceman Mathew Schofield



## Editor's Top 10

### Signs someone in your shop has lost their mind....

10. Prefers to dine on gourmet peanut butter and jelly sandwiches from the mess decks.
9. They are huddled in the fetal position asking 'are we there yet?'
8. Put post-it notes looking for gig line, keys to the grinder, jet wash or anyone that can sign off their Beerswas PQS.
7. They ask you to be the Executive Officer of their rack.
6. Thinking that it's wog day, they come to work wearing inside out and backwards clothing.
5. They love '80's butt rock.
4. Every other word they say is either "critical", "well deserved" or "robust."
3. They constantly insist that you call them "Brokeback Jones."
2. They've developed a bizaare fear of mustaches.
1. They keep referring to things that are "in their pants."